

## **Joppa/Joppatowne Community Council**

Meeting Number 140 (03-14)

March 10, 2014

Joppa/Joppatowne Community meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 140 was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Special greetings were given to community members by the chairperson. Local council members introduced themselves. Members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey and Yvonne Baldwin. Members absent were Betty Byrne, James B. Lyons III, Bob Frisch, Ron Sollod and Vincent Rabenau. The chair acknowledged guest speaker Janet Gleisner who shared the Walkability Audit and Joseph V. Ryan who discussed drug abuse in Harford County. Also acknowledged were Captain Krass of the Sheriff's Office/Community Policing, Councilman Dion Guthrie and Lydia Brennan, aide to Councilman Guthrie. February's minutes were not approved, because there was not a quorum.

### **Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report**

Captain Krass shared a handout with the community and local council, comparing the top three calls for service in 2013 and the beginning of 2014. Alarm calls decreased by 4 from 2013. Suspicious incidents decreased by 11 from 2013, and thefts increased by 7 from 2013. Capt. Krass shared that it is not a good idea to put a motion detector where there are animals in homes. They often cause false alarms. Capt. Krass answered other questions asked by community members and was thanked for his participation by the chairperson.

### **Guest Speaker, Joe Ryan – Drug Abuse in Harford County**

Joe Ryan gave an extensive talk about drug abuse in Harford County. He stated that high school students are smoking more marijuana than ever before. Statistics show that 23.2% of current high school

students regularly smoke marijuana, whereas 77% are not smoking and are making the right decisions. E-cigarettes are a part of a current trend in smoking; however, it has been found that they can be stuffed with marijuana. Mr. Ryan said that heroin, prescription drugs as well as synthetic drugs are making a comeback and are equally as dangerous. He spoke of other man-made drugs coming our way that are very addictive, and parents need to become aware of them. He also said that even though marijuana is a gateway drug, alcohol is usually the first drug used by most students. The highest percentage of student drug users is in the Bel Air area. Joe Ryan can be contacted by calling 410-638-3333. Paula Mullis thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation.

#### **Janet Gleisner – Walkability Audit**

Ms. Gleisner gave a brief review of the background and purpose, workshop methodology, findings and recommendations and the next steps of the Joppa Farm Road Walkability Audit. She stated that the characteristics of Joppa Farm Road made it an ideal location for a walkability study. She mentioned that when communities are walkable, residents of all ages can reach many of their destinations by walking or riding a bicycle. This adds vital exercise into the daily routine of the community. As a result of the audit, strategies have been identified as steps that need to be undertaken to improve the overall walkability along a section of Joppa Farm Road. Once completed, it was suggested that the remainder of Joppa Farm Road should be audited to insure that the entire corridor provides a pedestrian friendly environment. Janet Gleisner shared a draft of the study prepared by the Department of Planning and Zoning. The document is available in alternative formats upon request to the department. Ms. Gleisner was thanked for her presentation.

#### **County Council and Community Update from Councilman Dion Guthrie**

Councilman Dion Guthrie shared several handouts to the community concerning Clear Creek and the County Council's Presentation on the Edgewood/Joppa Enterprise Zone. He also mentioned that the owner with the "Chicken on the Roof" business is able to put the blow-up chicken back on top of the building. He found out that signs can be left up during an appeal process if necessary. He also found out that along the Route

40 area, the law concerning unique overhead signs is complaint driven. Dion mentioned that the pool was lost to the community because the County Executive felt that the money to purchase the pool would be better spent in Havre de Grace than in Joppatowne. Dion said he worked hard to get an elected Board of Education member for the Joppa/Joppatowne area. During this year's election there will be six new members elected to the Board. Councilman Guthrie was thanked for his participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. The minutes for March 10, 2014 will not have to be approved; there was not a quorum. The February minutes will need to be approved.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary